improve the facilities of the Botanic Gardens in the country. Under this shceme, an amount of Rs. 27.59 lakhs has been released so far during the current financial year.

National Museum of Natural History

1385. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons who visit the National Museum of Natural History annually;

(b) the number of school and college students who visit the museum;

(c) whether Government have any plan to improve and expand the museum on the lines of the museum in the UK and the USA; and

(d) what are the details of research papers produced by the staff of the museum during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) The approximate number of persons who visit the National Museum of Natural History annually is around 3 lakhs.

(b) The number of school and college students who visit the museum is approximately 2/3rd of the total visitors, i.e. around 2 lakhs.

(c) The exhibition (Permanent and temporary) and educational programmes of the National Museum of Natural History depict various aspects of the natural history of our country. The museum has a large number of programmes for college students, school children, family groups, handicapped children and the general public. Outreach activities for the rural areas, army units, resettlement colonies and school loan service mobile museum are also undertaken. These activities of the National museum of Natural History are in no way inferior to the exhibitions and educational activities conducted by the museums of UK and USA.

(d) The thrust area of the museum is on imparting non-formal education in the fields of environment and conservation. The scientists of the museum are involved in research relevant to environmental education and also on various museological aspects such as preservation, visitor evaluation studies, exhibit design and display, etc.

The senior Scientists of the National Museum of Natural History have presented various papers in national and international seminars on the subjects listed above. Details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

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Regional Museums, *Journal of Indian Museums*, Vol. XLVII, 1991.

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Technology in Natural History Museums Around the World—An Overview. *Journal of Indian Museums*, 1990.

Problems of Natural History Sections in Regional Museums. *Journal of Indian Museum*, 1991.

Electronic Technology and Museum Communication. *Journal of Indian Museums*, 1990.

What is a Regional Museum. Journal of Indian Museum, 1991.

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Evaluation and Assessment of the Growth of population in the Country

@1386. SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN :

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any evaluation and assessment of the growth of population in India; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have proposed to take to tackle this serious problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Action Plan drawn up by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been endorsed by the State Ministers of Health & Family Welfare in January, 1992. The States have been requested to operationalise the Action Plan.

The NDC Committee on Population was established inter alia, to identify intervention strategies for population control both at the micro and macro levels. The Committee has submitted its report.

Special efforts to promote Information, Education and Communication to motivate acceptors for Family Planning are being undertaken. A National consensus is sought to be built on the adoption of a small family norm.

@Previously unstarred question 724, transferred from 26th Nov. 1992.

Setting up of Medical College in Arunachal Pradesh

1387. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh to set up medical college in the State either by Government or by private sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Population Having T.B. Infection in the Country

1388. SHRI MD. SALIM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that about 40 per cent of the country's population (320 million people) is estimated to have T.B. infection;

(b) if so, in spite of such a grave situation, why the Government have failed to create awareness among the people and to take urgent steps to arrest the situation; and

(c) how much poverty-linked population is affected by this disease ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) Based on the 1991 Census the estimated number of TB